

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Raleigh County

West Virginia · Beckley · FIPS 54081 · Population 74,303 ·
Crosodo Index #2359*

STATE BASELINE

W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (eff. June 12, 2026); §19-35-6

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

How to start — 60-second path

Raleigh County, West Virginia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Not specified in state statute.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under West Virginia cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ West Virginia home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[West Virginia label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

WEST VIRGINIA: RALEIGH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2359* · FIPS 54081 · Beckley

Raleigh County

Population 74,303 · State baseline: W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (eff. June 12, 2026); §19-35-6 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Dept. of Agriculture permit but no separate food establishment permit for home sales. Cannot sell outside West Virginia. Meat, poultry, seafood, and Grade A dairy excluded.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (New law (W. Va. Code §19-40-1 et seq., SB 44, eff. June 12, 2026) exempts nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods from all licensing, permitting, and inspection. Raleigh County may have local zoning home occupation requirements. County URLs confirmed in input.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (No routine inspection for nonpotentially hazardous foods. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Dept. of Agriculture permit. WVDA or health department may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Dept. of Agriculture permit but no separate food establishment permit for home sales. Cannot sell outside West Virginia. Meat, poultry, seafood, and Grade A dairy excluded.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required at state level.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous products must be stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — No routine inspection for nonpotentially hazardous foods. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WV Dept. of Agriculture permit. WVDA or health department may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — New law (W. Va. Code §19-40-1 et seq., SB 44, eff. June 12, 2026) exempts nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods from all licensing, permitting, and inspection. Raleigh County may have local zoning home occupation requirements. County URLs confirmed in input.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales within West Virginia only. No sales outside the state. Nonpotentially hazardous foods have no sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6. No Raleigh County-specific code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

West Virginia enacted a major cottage food expansion via SB 44 (2026 Regular Session), eff. June 12, 2026, creating W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6. Nonpotentially hazardous foods fully exempt from all licensing/permitting/inspection. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require a WVDA permit. No Raleigh County-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (new state law confirmed in state baseline, county URLs confirmed, no specific county ordinance found).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.raleighcounty.gov/health>

<https://www.raleighcounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.raleighcounty.gov>

<https://oeh.dhhr.wv.gov/foodprotection/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

<https://www.raleighcounty.gov>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/west-virginia/raleigh-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Raleigh County	Mercer County	Kanawha County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales within West Virginia only. No sales outside the state. Nonpotentially hazardous foods have no sales cap.	Direct sales to consumers within West Virginia only. Farmers markets, home pickup, events permitted. No out-of-state sales.	Direct sales within West Virginia. In-person and remote sales permitted; delivery by producer, agent, or third-party carrier allowed.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection. Potentially hazardous cottage foods require...	West Virginia SB 44 (2026) created new §19-40-1 through §19-40-6. Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods are fully exempt from licensing, p...	Nonpotentially hazardous foods: fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection per §19-40-6 and §19-35-6. Potentially hazardous co...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous products must be stored appropriately.	Non-potentially hazardous foods must be stored appropriately.	Appropriate storage for cottage food products.
POPULATION	74,303	59,530	179,895

State context — West Virginia cottage food law

Raleigh County's rules sit on top of West Virginia's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

W. Va. Code §19-40-1 through §19-40-6 (Article 40, Cottage Foods, enacted 2026); §19-35-6 (Nonpotentially hazardous foods at farmers markets)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Depends

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Cottage food must be sold directly to consumers. The new Article 40 (effective June 12, 2026) establishes that potentially hazardous cottage food vendors need a statewide permit but nonpotentially hazardous food sellers are fully exempt from permit and inspection. Local health departments may invoke cessation of production only if an imminent health hazard exists, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture. The input batch cited §16-7-1 (a general adulteration statute), but the operative cottage food framework is now Article 40 (§19-40-1 through §19-40-6), signed March 27, 2026.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [West Virginia cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/west-virginia.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://code.wvlegislature.gov/16-7/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://oeh.dhhr.wv.gov/foodprotection/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/west-virginia/>

Questions about Raleigh County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/west-virginia/raleigh-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Raleigh County, West Virginia. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/west-virginia/raleigh-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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